
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
HIV PREVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE (PPC)
A Select Committee of the Commission on HIV Health Services
600 South Commonwealth Avenue, 6th Floor- Los Angeles CA 90005-4001**

MEETING SUMMARY
Thursday, September 6, 2001
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
St. Anne's Foundation Conference Room
155 North Occidental Boulevard-Los Angeles, CA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mario Perez	Maria Perez
Richard Zaldivar	Jeff Bailey
Chi-Wai Au	Sergio Avina
Ricky Bluthenthal	Gordon Bunch
Tony Bustamante	Mark Etzel
Sandra Cargill	Ramon Flores
Danielle Glenn-Rivera(L)	Juan Carlos Ledesma
Edric Mendia	Veronica Morales
Keisha Paxton	Frank Roque
Ricki Rosales	Vanessa Talamantes

ABSENT

Kevin Kindlin
Ric Loya
Cleo Manago
James Miller
Vicky Ortega
Gail Sanabria
Nancy Wongvipat
Kellii Trombacco

STAFF PRESENT

Dean Goishi	Rene Seidel
Oscar Garcia	Elizabeth Escobedo
Delia Sandoval	Anna Soto

ROLL CALL - Roll call was conducted. A quorum was present.

CHIPTS COLLOQUIA SERIES – Trends in HIV Prevention Policy by Dr. Holtgrave.

The next presentation will be on The Spiritual Response to Living with HIV/AIDS by Dr. Anton M. Somlai, Ed.D of the Medical College of Wisconsin.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The committee approved the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY

Ramon Flores-under announcements the date should be corrected to September 29, 2001, for the AIDS Faith Forum.
Mark Etzel-under the Colloquia series second paragraph Dr. David Holtgrave is from Emory University. The committee approved the meeting summary for August 2, 2001, with the indicated changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shawn Lynch brought copies of their TWACKED brochure.

ATLANTA REPORT

Richard Zaldivar attended the UCHAPS conference (Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services). Dr. George Ayala did an incredible presentation on his study on Latino men MSM. **Sandra Cargill** indicated there was a great deal of information on youth that she was able to bring back. **Mark Etzel** attended a workshop on priority setting and resource allocation. He also attended a workshop on structural interventions. An investigator from Columbia University is looking at housing and its relationship to risk for HIV. She is looking at people who have stable housing and whether

or not their risk behavior changes. They are finding that if you have a stable environment perhaps the choices you make about your sexual health might decrease risk. **Keisha Paxton** reported that there was a mix of people such as policy, researchers, health educators and clients. There is a research project that would start next year in 2002, on zero discordant African American couples. It is taking place in four cities including New York, Newark, Atlanta, and Los Angeles. **Edric Mendia** reported that the most significant workshop he attended was applying cost-effective model to HIV priority setting process. The workshop looked more in-depth look at those models and they are summarized in a report called "No Time to Loose getting more out of HIV prevention." The study is available on line. **Veronica Morales** liked the plenary sessions because they were very motivational in fighting the epidemic.

Mario Perez commented that UCHAPS is made up of the six jurisdictions directly funded by CDC to do prevention. The group was formed nearly three years ago. The six jurisdictions are Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, and Houston. Its primary purpose is to develop an agenda that differentiates the six urban jurisdictions from the rest of the country in terms of the challenges to providing prevention work and to demonstrate the impact that these jurisdictions carry with respect to the national epidemic. It works very closely with the CDC and NASTAD (National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors) and has a formal relationship with AIDS Action Council. There is a steering committee. Chuck L. Henry will continue to serve as the Los Angeles representative to steering committee. Mario Perez will serve as the UCHAPS representative to NASTAD. Dean Goishi will continue to serve as Action Plan Committee representative. This Action Plan committee is solely responsible for developing the Urban Action Plan and working closely with two consultants who have been hired by UCHAPS. An urban agenda is expected by the end of the year. The purpose of the Urban Agenda will be to work with congress and political leaders to demonstrate the impact that jurisdictions carry with respect to the national epidemic. The two Community co-chairs will also represent Los Angeles in UCHAPS.

Mr. Perez reported that Los Angeles County continues to have an increasing presence at national conferences. Los Angeles needs to present more abstracts. There is a call for abstracts in the PPC packet for the upcoming CPLS conference in Chicago next March. The deadline is October 12, 2001. He commented that Los Angeles does some very good work locally and it is important to demonstrate that to our national partners.

He had an opportunity to meet with a representative company who has developed a finger stick rapid test. It represents an emerging technology that will be of great value to HIV testing. FDA approval has not been secured as of yet. There is also a urine HIV antibody test. The turn around rate is two minutes.

Jeff Bailey commented that at the Atlanta conference Los Angeles still does not seem to be at the table at a lot of the discussion. The emphasis on much of the discussion at these conferences is on the East Coast. The injection drug using population is much lower here than on the East Coast. The female heterosexual rate is lower here than it is on the East Coast. He also noticed that there was a lot of presence from San Francisco at many of the conferences. It is very important that when attending these events Los Angeles County come together to show a Los Angeles County presence.

He commented that one of the key presentations was on the Prevention Plan for Iowa. Iowa's prevention plan is for the whole state. There were numerous presentations on increases in syphilis, rectal diarrhea among MSM, and the relationship of gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV is far greater than between clamytia and HIV infection. There were a number of presentations from agencies and community based organizations using the Internet as a specific intervention. He commented that there is a book coming out by Richard Lytsky. The book talks about areas that they call grey areas around transmission, such as what is the real risk of oral sex?

OAPP REPORT

Mario Perez commented that we now have a better sense locally how that \$4 million cut will impact our local prevention programs. There will be a cut of about \$400,000 experienced by Los Angeles County. The plan is not to immediately and directly impact any of the existing allocations and resources. OAPP will pay very close attention to all requests for budget augmentations or requests for budget modifications. In an effort to absorb some of the those, OAPP will spend the next 10 to 11 months closely monitoring the prevention contracts and identifying ways to not directly cut but not allow some of the costs that in other years may have been warranted

There needs to be increased attention to the allocation of prevention resources, not just at the state level but by our federal partners. It is becoming increasingly important that we use prevention resources more wisely and to demonstrate cost effectiveness on some level. It is also necessary to ensure that we have stronger evaluation components, not merely

to demonstrate any impact in our prevention programs, but at some level to demonstrate that future cuts in prevention are not warranted.

Mr. Perez provided an update of the Latino Pride event. He reported that the event went very well. Rapid testing services were provided. There were a total of 120 tests provided, with five positives. One person had previously known their positive status. This example of community mobilization will continue to be important in targeting our counseling and testing resources. OAPP will continue to identify community events to target resources in an effort to normalize testing, increase the acceptance of testing, and to provide a link to our risk reduction programs and services in the community. A discussion about HIV testing at events such as Latino Pride or at The Beach followed. There was a discussion about whether or not there was follow up for people that tested positive at Latino Pride. Tiffany Horton, HIV Counseling and Testing representative, indicated that all those people were followed up at the Gay and Lesbian Center.

Jeff Bailey commented that he remembered months ago an individual from the audience was outraged about waiting for announcements from OAPP with regards to RFP's. He commented that the same could be said with regards to the budget cuts, where is the outrage with regards to having our prevention programs cut?

Richard Zaldivar commented that we have gotten to the point of complacency. He stated that we owe it to our community to become leaders and respond by sending a letter to our governor with a copy to our local representatives and not let up until we reach our objectives. He also stated that we are not the only ones being impacted and we should inquire what others are doing about the budget cuts. He commented that there is an article coming out about the complacency of our community. The epidemic is now more with people of color. He commented that PPC, OAPP and the community should start organizing delegations to visit our local representatives and help them realize that the epidemic is in their district.

A member of the public commented that we have not quite marketed prevention and the type of PR that is necessary to say how critically important prevention is. Prevention and care have gotten lumped together and an extra effort has to be made to market prevention.

Cathy Watts commented that when San Francisco got word that there were cuts, there were articles in the newspaper. She also stated that the complacency and the apathy in Los Angeles County are really horrific.

Gunther Freehill stated that in the two previous year budgets that, we saw the first ever increases in prevention funds for the communities of color. Those two increases amounted to 4 million dollars. This year we saw for the first time ever an actual decrease in prevention funds of \$4 million. The ability of jurisdictions across the state to respond to the epidemic as it grows and shifts, is being affected. There was a published report about three weeks ago that stated that all departments including the Health Department have been directed to come up with scenarios for budget cuts for next year of 3%, 5% and 10%. There has been another directive to plan for a 15% cut for next year's budget. He also noted that the State ought to be here reporting on how they are going to implement the cuts. He commented that the governor of California has what is called blue pen authority. Before the governor signs it, he goes through the budget with a blue pencil and strikes out particular programs. The prevention money was passed by both houses of legislature but it was not proposed by the governor. The governor went over the budget with a blue pencil and made the cut.

A PPC member commented that in accordance with the presentation that was provided today, if we maintain our current level without any increases, we will not be able to reach our goal and the governor and legislators need to know that.

In reference to the budget cuts the following recommendations were made.

1. To write a letter to the governor.
2. Send letters to the Executive Directors, of CBOS and inform them about the budget cuts.
3. Find out what California HIV/AIDS Coalition (CHAC) has been doing or plans to do on prevention issues.
4. Hold a community town house meeting and invite our representatives to explain to the community the effect that the proposed cuts will have.

RFP/CDC application: by Maria Perez

All of the Counseling and Testing results will be sent out to the agencies by Friday. OAPP was not able to allocate a little under one million dollars. Not enough proposals were received from agencies interested in providing counseling and testing sessions in MSM BRGs.

A Demonstration Project asking for proposals to provide counseling and testing in the jails was also released. Not enough proposals were received. Including from those people that frequently target and criticize OAPP for not providing more services in the jails. As a body we need to think about how we create capacity and increase interest in the community service providers to respond to these RFPs.

We did the rebid of the Prevention RFP. Discussions are being held about what we need to do with unallocated money to create capacity in our communities. The recommendations will be released to the Health Deputies within the next week and they have approximately 10 days to review the recommendations. We will release final awards no more than 3 weeks from now.

We were also able to review the CPN. We had to rebid the Oversight Entity for the Coordinated Prevention Networks. We were able to finalize that process last week. We should also be forwarding our recommendation to the Health Deputies next week and then release that award at the same time as we do the Prevention.

Two major RFPs will be released before the end of the fall and those are the Demonstration Corrections Project and another related to the Strategic Planning Process. There will be a few others that will be done later in the year.

The CDC Proposal is due on September 17, 2001. We are now on our third draft of the proposal. A copy was emailed to all PPC members for their review. Copies are available for those who did not get a copy. We are going to focus on what we committed to doing over the three years getting it up and running, evaluating it and making some specific recommendations about those areas and future changes. Two things are needed, one to get feedback from the PPC and a letter of concurrence signed by the co-chairs.

Motion: Ricky Bluthenthal moved and it was seconded, and approved that the PPC empower the members of the PPC present at the September 12, 2001 meeting at 1:00 p.m. to deem the PPC concurrence or non-concurrence with the application to the CDC for prevention funding.

Dean Goishi recommended that PPC members read the CDC proposal and provide feedback to him by the end of day September 7th.

BREAK

CO-CHAIRS REPORT

Richard Zaldivar commented that The biggest challenge that he sees as co-chair is mentoring and developing leaders. He is entertaining any ideas from members of the PPC and from the community about ideas on mentoring. There is a need to have parity for co-chair, on the PPC. There is also a need for leadership in the PPC. The issue of the cut in funding and other problems is going to rest in the hands of the young leaders.

Syphilis Update :

Tony Bustamante reported that in the recent four weeks they have seen a doubling of primary and secondary syphilis among MSMs. They are preparing a presentation for the HIV Commission on September 20, 2001. Dr. Kerndt will be giving a 20-minute presentation on the Syphilis increased morbidity.

Jeff Bailey stated that Terry Ford from AIDS Health care Foundation submitted an abstract in Atlanta with regards to the syphilis outbreak last year. There will be a gathering at the Village on Wednesday September 19, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 PM, to discuss and develop an ongoing action plan with regards to addressing syphilis and other STDs. He invited and encouraged those providers who target especially MSM to attend. A brochure on syphilis was printed and is available in Spanish and English. There is also a women's version of it and will be available at that meeting.

Strategic Plan

Jeff Bailey reported that a task force was formed to look at and address the issues concerning the membership of the Commission, it has met in several meetings. They will also look at the relationship of the PPC to the Commission. They have also started meetings with the Needs Assessment Committee because part of the Strategic Plan is to conduct a major needs assessment. The next phase with the core planning partners is to roll out the Strategic Plan to more community members as identified by members of the Board of Supervisors, key informants, and stakeholders within each of their districts.

Mark Etzel commented that trainings for the Board of Supervisors' Health Deputies are being scheduled to help them understand what this process is about and what their role is so that we have four core planning partners that are equal in their understanding and commitment. The Commission passed a Continuum of Care Services Model. The model was part of the Strategic Planning effort. He suggested placing the Continuum of Care Services Model on the agenda next month and for the PPC to discuss what it means for the PPC if they concur.

ACTION: Place the Continuum of Care Services Model on the October agenda.

MSM Conference

Jeff Bailey reported that NASTAD has convened a number of meetings concerning MSM across the United States. There will be a Western Regional meeting in Los Angeles on November 26 and 27, 2001, at USC. He encouraged providers to this specific population to attend. For more information log onto NASTAD's Webb site. It is a series of four regional meetings. **Gordon Bunch** explained that there will be presentations by key researchers and members of CDC will be participating in the meetings. He will forward more information to Delia Sandoval so that she can forward to PPC members. **Danielle Glenn-Rivera** received an e-mail from NMAC and they are interested in hearing from people of color as well as MSM. Although the conference is free, you do need to register.

It was suggested to include the NASTAD registration form in the PPC packet.

ACTION: Place the Regional meeting registration form in the packet.

Social Marketing

Jeff Bailey commented that formerly the social marketing aspect was part of the Public Policy sub-committee.

Presently the two Public Policy sub-committees of the PPC and the Commission have temporarily merged. He stated that the Executive sub-committee would be discussing the social marketing aspect to determine the appropriate sub-committee to place this in.

Jeff Bailey commented that Richard Zaldivar and his agency have been working very hard with preparations for Strike Out AIDS at the Dodger game, which will be held on September 22, 2001. **Richard Zaldivar**, commented that the county committed to sponsor materials in La Opinion which will have the names and telephone numbers of counseling and testing sites throughout Los Angeles County. Those attending will be receiving red ribbons and a copy of La Opinion with a 12-page color insert. PPC members and the community were invited to attend and support this event. Some of the celebrity honoree co-chairs are Alvita, Culture Clash and Paul Rodriguez.

In response to a question about a guide to HIV services, it was commented that APLA was recently funded to do a HIV/LA Directory. The brochure will be on paper format and also on line and in English and Spanish, with possibility of other translations.

STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Youth Leadership Meeting by Chi-Wai Au

Chi-Wai Au reported that he and Sergio Avina attended the last Executive Sub-committee meeting and they presented their core group membership application. They received comments and feedback and they are in the process of revising the application so that they emphasize membership for the Youth Leadership sub-committee and not membership with voting rights to the PPC. They hope to have it approved by the end of the month. They met to update their work plan. They are looking forward to their first Orientation meeting in January 2002. They will formulate an outreach plan to recruit applicants to the core group membership.

Evaluation by Edric Mendia

He mentioned that his e-mail address was incorrect on the roster. It should read emendia_wrhap@hotmail.com. They will be working out the details to their work plan. The sub-committee will be working on gaps analysis, needs assessments, evaluating the planning process. He asked interested individuals to join the sub-committee.

Best Practice/Standards

No report

Operations by Sandra Cargill

She has been a committee of one for about two months. She is in the process of realigning goals and setting priorities. Emma Robinson and Juan Carlos Ledesma have joined this sub-committee. Danielle Glenn-Rivera will join this sub-committee as of October. They are reviewing applications for new PPC membership. They will be

working with the community input and determining how this sub-committee can make recommendations and can respond to community input.

Public Policy Marketing by Mark Etzel

The majority of the work of the Public Policy sub-committee has been focused on the CDC Prevention application. The committee is meeting jointly with the Commission's Public Policy sub-committee. Within the next few weeks they will be working on the letters about budget cuts, and about the challenges members of the transgender community faced by police enforcement around condom issues. A plan needs to be developed to start meeting with some of the different advisory groups as well as getting a letter drafted. A correction on the calendar: the meeting for the Public Policy committee is listed for the 3rd Wednesday of the month. It should now be listed as a joint Public Policy Committee meeting, which is the third Friday.

ACTION: Mark Etzel: The joint policy committee will draft and develop talking points and telephone numbers for PPC members and members in the community to make calls.

Commission Update by Juan Carlos Ledesma

In the future the PPC representatives to the Commission will provide a report from the Commission. There are new requirements in terms of representation on the Commission by individuals who are not affiliated with organizations that receive Ryan White funding.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job vacancies were announced and flyers with information were available.

Ramon Flores reminded the PPC members and the community about the first Faith AIDS walk, about 4.2 miles, on September 29, 2001, at Ruben Zalazar Park. The event is a collaboration between The Wall Las Memorias and Bienestar. He encouraged the PPC to support this event. The purpose of the walk is to create awareness for faith based communities to become involved in the prevention of HIV/AIDS. Ministers from different denominations will be speaking.

Danielle Glenn-Rivera reported that there is a meeting a week from today at St. Anne's to address the CHHS nomination process.

ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting was adjourned.
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